origin of these remarkable circles, laid before the meeting of the British Association, held at Southampton in September 1846, by Professor Way of the Agricultural College at Cirencester, was identical with that published by Wollaston in the 'Philosophical Transactions' for 1807. Dr. Wilson also pointed out that analyses of various fungi had been made by Professor Schlossberger of Tubingen and Dr. Doepping, and thought that these gentlemen's names deserved to be mentioned, as confirmers of Wollaston's views and predecessors of Professor Way, in establishing the probability of the chemical theory of Fairy Rings. To Professor Way, on the other hand, belonged the twofold merit of being the first to analyse Agarics actually taken from Fairy Rings, and the first to supply a detailed qualitative and quantitative analysis of the ashes of these fungi.

Dr. Balfour made remarks on the views of botanists relative to centrifugal development, and endeavoured to show that a combination of the botanical and chemical theories was necessary to account for the phænomenon.

Dr. Fleming thought that none of the theories were sufficient to account for the so-called fairy Rings in all cases; and alluded to the occurrence of fungi, especially *Agaricus oreades*, in a circular arrangement without any alteration in the grass.

Sir Wm. Jardine agreed with Dr. Fleming; and stated that the growth of fungi in lawns was often not in a circular manner, but of various forms, and without altering the appearance of the grass. He then briefly noticed the points which still required determination, and urged upon botanists the importance of attending to them.

2. Supplement to "A Synopsis of British Rubi," No. 2, by Charles C. Babington, M.A. See 'Annals,' p. 83 of the present volume.

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## MISCELLANEOUS.

### *Description of a new genus and species of Entozoa.*

By Joseph Leidy, M.D.

In the course of an investigation of the anatomical structure of the terrestrial Gasteropoda of the United States, I discovered a microscopic Entozoon inhabiting the fluid contained in the vessie copulatrice or spermatheca of *Helix albolabris*, since which I have found it to exist in two other species, *Helix tridentata* and *Helix alternata*, and I have no doubt of its existence in others, not yet having had an opportunity of examining further. As there appears to be no known genus in which this animal can be placed, I have been necessitated to form the following:—

*Cryptobia.* Animal minute; form exceedingly proteoid; internal organization cellular or granular.

*C. helicis.* Colourless; form ordinarily elongate, ellipsoid, fusiform or ovate; caudated, caudæ opposite, one longer than the other. Internal granular structure consisting of two large cells and numerous minute granules. Total length from the 125th to the 100th of

a line. Habitat, the vessie copulatrice or spermatheca of *Helix albolabris*, *Helix tridentata*, and *Helix alternata*.

This singular Entozoon in its general appearance and organization appears to be intermediate between *Cercaria seminis* and *Filaria*. Its varied form and movements are curious to observe; at one moment globular, then oval, ovate, fusiform, sigmoid, crescentic, &c., it appears as if it would outvie the kaleidoscope in its changes. The motions are vibratile, rotary, with a lateral progression, or whirling in circles like the insect *Gyrinus*.

*Cryptobia helicis* might be confounded with the Spermatozoa of the animal in which they are parasitic, on account of the organ in which they are found being connected with the generative apparatus and its supposed use as a spermatheca, but they may be readily distinguished; the Spermatozoa of Helices generally having either a uniform sigmoid or a beaded body, with an enormous proportionate length of tail, and a slow, vibratile motion. It may be well to mention that *C. helicis* does not exist in the collapsed state of the generative organs.

The subjoined sketch represents some of the principal forms of the animal, highly magnified.—*From the Proceedings of the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences.*

*Description of two living Hybrid Fowls, between* Gallus *and* Numida. By Samuel George Morton, M.D.

The singular birds which form the subject of this communication were bred on a farm about seven miles from Wilmington, in the State of Delaware. The person who raised them states that the eggs that produced them differed in no respect from those of the guinea fowl, were part of a large number that were hatched at the same time, and that the birds are known to be just four years old. My friend Mr. Augustus E. Jessup having accidentally observed these birds on the above-mentioned farm, purchased them of the proprietor, and sent them to my care, with a request that they might be eventually placed in the collections of the Academy. Both are yet living and in good health; and the following description, in which I have been materially assisted by my friend Mr. William Gambel, has been drawn up after many examinations, made during a month and upwards that the birds have been in the charge of Mr. Robert Kilvington, horticulturist of this city.

The first of these birds is mottled with the colour of a reddish brown chicken and guinea fowl (*Numida meleagris*). Back and rump lineated with darkish brown and whitish, and a tinge of yellowish brown. Greater wing-coverts and margins of secondaries reddish brown; breast, belly, sides and under tail-coverts dirty white, with scattering feathers of the same. Quills and tail-feathers dusky brown, lineated, and finely speckled like those of the guinea fowl. Two quills in one wing and one in the tail are entirely white. Wings concave and rounded, one foot in length from flexure. First